

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1924

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 13822

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV PGOV PFOR ET

SUBJECT: "FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN" SPEAKS OUT

REFS: (A) ADDIS 13705; (B) ADDIS 13730; (C) ADDIS 13792

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

ETHIOPIAN HERALD NOVEMBER 18 REPORTED SERIES OF SPEECHES MADE BY MAJ. MENGHISTU HAILE MARIAM, "FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF PMAC", TO MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES, POLICE AND TERRITORIAL ARMY IN ADDIS ABABA AREA. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, MENGHISTU'S REFERENCES TO THOSE MASQUERADING AS NATIONALISTS AND TRUE SONS OF THEIR LAND WHO WERE NOT ON BOARD AS OF LAST FEBRUARY, AS WELL AS HIS ALLUSION TO MILITARY SUBVERSIVES, ARE BEING WIDELY VIEWED HERE AS DIRECT ATTACKS ON LG AMAN MICHAEL ANDOM. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

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2. MENGHISTU NOTED THAT THOSE AT THE HELM OF THE MILITARY REFORM MOVEMENT HAD GONE THROUGH A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF TRIALS. . . SEVERE OPPOSITION. . . AND THREATS TO THEIR LIVES. . . NOW THAT THE ROAD FOR BASIC CHANGE AND REFORM HAS BEEN CLEARED "MANY (OTHERS) ARE MASQUERADING AS NATIONALISTS AND TRUE SONS OF THIS LAND. WHERE WERE THEY AND WHAT WERE THEY DOING SINCE LAST FEBRUARY?" MENGHISTU ASSERTED THAT AN ENORMOUS EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE DEPOSED EMPEROR AND OTHERS, WHO HAD SPENT MONEY LAVISHLY BUT TO NO AVAIL, TO NIP THE MOVEMENT IN THE BUD. THE MOVEMENT HAD TRIUMPHED, HOWEVER, AND HAD UNITED THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN KEPT AT LOGGERHEADS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

3. WHILE PRAISING THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MILITARY REFORM MOVEMENT TO DATE, MENGHISTU ASSERTED THAT THOSE DESIGNED TO FIGHT POVERTY, IGNORANCE AND DISEASE REMAINED UNIMPRESSIVE. TO SOLVE THESE NATIONAL PROBLEMS, HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO "FORM A NEW SOCIETY IN WHICH JUSTICE AND EQUALITY AMONG MEN ARE OBSERVED." SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES BECOME MEANINGFUL, MENGHISTU SAID, "WHEN BACKED UP BY LAND REFORM", WHICH 25 MILLION ETHIOPIANS ARE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING. THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, HE SAID, BELIEVE THAT LAND REFORM IS THE MAIN FEATURE OF THE CHANGES TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT. HE SAID THAT THE MILITARY COULD CONFIRM THEIR DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN POPULATION AND PARTICULARLY THE ORDINARY FARMER "THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND REFORM."

4. MENGHISTU THEN WARNED THAT ALL ETHIOPIANS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, "WHO ARE TRYING TO DISTORT THIS HISTORIC CHANGE AND TO HINDER THE COURSE OF PROGRESS."

5. HE CALLED UPON ALL TO SUBORDINATE THE PERSONAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND SAID IN THIS CONNECTION THAT MOST STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAD SUBSCRIBED TO THE IDEA OF DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION. REGRETTABLY, SOME STUDENTS IN THE NORTHERN REGION HAD VOTED AGAINST ETHIOPIA'S NATIONAL CALL. HE HOPED THEIR ATTITUDE WOULD CHANGE VERY SOON.

6. ETHIOPIANS AND THE MILITARY SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT A HANDFUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF REBELS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN UNLAWFUL ACTS IN THE NORTHERN REGION FOR 14 YEARS "WITH THE SUPPORT OF FOREIGNERS." MENGHISTU ASCRIBED THIS TO THE MALADMINISTRATION AND INJUSTICE LEFT BEHIND BY THE PREVIOUS REGIME, NOT MERELY IN THE NORTHERN REGION BUT IN ALL ETHIOPIA. MENGHISTU SAID THAT THE MILITARY REFORM MOVEMENT HAD INVITED THESE DISSIDENTS TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND TO MERGE THEIR EFFORT INTO A NATIONAL ENDEAVOR TO BUILD A NEW ETHIOPIA. REGRETTABLY, THE REBELS HAD NOT READ THE

MOVEMENT'S GESTURE THE WAY IT HAD BEEN INTENDED.

7. MENGHISTU CALLED UPON "OUR BRETHREN AND COMRADES" TO REALIZE THAT THE MILITARY MOVEMENT'S EFFORTS ARE AIMED AT ENSURING THE RIGHTS AND EQUALITY OF ETHIOPIANS AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO DISMANTLE "THE UNITY BUILT BY THE BLOOD OF OUR HEROIC . . . FATHERS."

8. MENGHISTU SAID THAT THE NEW ETHIOPIA WILL STRUGGLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A STRONGER AFRICA BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH "OUR BRETHREN IN EASTERN AFRICA." HOWEVER, "ETHIOPIA'S BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WOULD BE LOOKED AFTER WITH VIGILANCE."

9. THE MILITARY MOVEMENT, HE SAID IN CONCLUSION, HAD THE MEANS AND THE WILL "TO STRIKE HARD AGAINST THOSE ELEMENTS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WHO ATTEMPT TO HAMPER OUR MARCH AHEAD."  
WYMAN

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